

**Grade 4th 5th Informational/Opinion Japanese New Year
Feedback for Improvement of Writing**

Topic: Japanese New Year

Main Idea #1: Food

Main Idea #2: Family

Main Idea #3: Pictures

What worked:

Organization: This piece included an introduction and three main ideas. However, the essay was incomplete - almost as if the student ran out of time.

Main Idea Sentences: The student includes a main idea sentence for each main idea paragraph written. The main ideas are broad yet distinct.

Elaborative Detail and Powerful Vocabulary: Excellent use of the Detail Generating Questions along with powerful word choice: "slow cooked salmon bursting with orange", "grain was colorless and delicate", "tender with cubes of tofu", "warm, delicate broth".

Feedback with Prescriptive Lesson:

CHOOSE a Focus Skill:

Introductions: This piece needs an effective lead. The topic sentence was well written.

Leads and Topic Sentences

Writing an Attention-Grabbing Lead

Conclusions: Needs to include a conclusion that sums up the entire piece.

Japanese New Year's

By: Sono

Every year on New Year's my family comes to celebrate the Japanese New Year. Three important essentials were the food, family, and pictures. New Year of 2010 was unforgettable!

There were many different types of food at our celebration. One was fish. It was a slow-cooked salmon bursting with orange with a salty soy-sauce touch. It was the star of the show. Not only that, but sticky rice was there. The grain was colorless and delicate, in a roll with a sticky feeling to it. Some preferred it with brown sugar and butter. This is a traditional edible on Japanese New Year. Also miso soup was an appetizer. This traditional Japanese soup was salty with seaweed, tender with cubes of tofu, and had a warm, delicate broth. Last but not least, there was a tea ceremony. This was a small cup of green tea with unsalted seaweed at the bottom with a sea-salty cherry-like ball at the bottom. The food made me feel thankful to all the food we had, and it was important in our celebration.

Family coming was a heart-warming experience. My family came from New England. My cousins from Pennsylvania came and we never see them often. They were all black-haired girls, the daughters of the mom's brother. Even my cousin that lives in Maryland that we've only seen a couple times was there. At the long dining-room table all but two chairs the ones on the ends, were accompanied by relatives. The two chairs symbolize where my grandma and grandpa sat before they moved back to Japan. But since they were family, we imagined that they were there. Plus, when we drank our tea, we clinked cups and drank as a family. Family was an important part in my family's celebration.

A very important part of Japanese New Year was the family pictures.

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Powerful vocabulary

Eliminate personal feelings from informational writing.

This main idea sounds like a personal narrative. state the facts about a New Year's celebration.

transition word!

Strong elaboration